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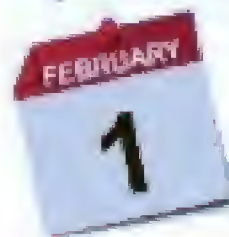


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Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

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**Province rejects city's request to
modernize delivery of assessment,
taxation notices to residents**

metroNEWS

Charges laid in Rebel assault case

WOMEN'S MARCH

**Contributor
to news website
alleges man hit
her at protest**



**Alex
Boyd**
Metro | Edmonton

Police have laid charges in relation to an alleged assault at the Women's March on Saturday.

Jason Dion Bews, 34, is charged with assault and uttering threats.

Edmonton Police declined to give any more information before Metro went to press.

The complainant is Sheila Gunn Reid, a contributor for Rebel Media, an online outlet devoted to right-wing commentary, activism and reporting.

In a video released by The Rebel, Gunn Reid is seen attempting to interview an attendant at the rally, which drew more than 2,000 people to support American protesters opposed to the presidency of Donald Trump. The man asks her several times to "go away," then threatens to break her camera when she doesn't.

The video then appears to show the man shoving his hand into the camera lens. He melted into the crowd afterward, with no one attempting to stop him.

"He just hit me in the face!" Reid says, attempting to follow the man.

Following the altercation, Rebel Media offered a \$1,000 reward for anyone with information about the "NDP thug."

The Edmonton police also launched an investigation, which led to Tuesday's charges. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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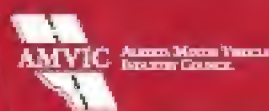
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Researcher looks at link between sports, addiction

HEALTH

Some athletes more prone to substance abuse: Study



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

New research from the University of Alberta suggests there could be a potential link between sports and substance abuse.

Laurie de Grace set out to interview people recovering from substance abuse for her master's research with the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation — and found unexpected things.

"I was surprised by the number of participants that I had that had a strong sports background," de Grace said.

In a paper published this month in *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, she wrote that the prevalence of substance abuse in some sports communities creates a greater risk of addictions for people already vulnerable to them.

Her subjects included a former gymnast, rower and martial artist, but a significant number had played team sports — especially hockey.

And a significant number were introduced to substance abuse by their sport's culture, she said.



"I would like to see at the adult and coaching level more attention paid to the example set for younger kids."

Laurie de Grace

A culture of substance abuse in sports could be leading to problems, researcher Laurie de Grace found.

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

"One fellow I spoke to said he didn't drink or use marijuana when he joined the team, but the older guys did and it was part of them fitting in. Then they realized that when they became the older teammates, they were now setting the example for the younger guys. So it perpetuates."

In addition to those who were introduced to substance abuse, de Grace found some respondents who'd been forced to quit

their sport because of addiction issues and those who'd started using because they'd had to quit their sport.

The story is less than black and white.

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse recently found that sports programs can reduce substance abuse. The centre surveyed sports programs that tried to educate kids about drugs — through things like peer-to-peer

education, or counselling.

The report points out that since the majority of children do some sort of sport it's an "optimal opportunity" to reach a broad swath of them, but added there needs to be more research about how to do it effectively.

De Grace's study is small — just 21 people participated — meaning the sample size is far too small to draw large conclusions.

Still, she said it's enough to suggest that coaches, parents and athletes should be more aware of the culture around sports.

"I would like to see at the adult and coaching level more attention paid to the example set for younger kids. You think if you get your kids involved in sports you're preventing substance abuse. But little do they know it's taking place right then and there."

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Alberta first, says Notley

Premier Rachel Notley says she welcomes approval of the Keystone XL project, but says her focus remains on pipelines to ports in Canada.

Notley says much of Keystone is out of Canada's hands, given the pipeline runs through the United States to ports and refineries in Texas.

She also notes the TransCanada Corp. line is far from Alberta's priority export market in Asia.

U.S. President Donald Trump has signed an executive order reviving the controversial pipeline, which would take Alberta crude to the Gulf Coast.

Former U.S. president Barack Obama rejected Keystone, in part over environmental concerns.

Notley has been criticized for not promoting Keystone more, but she says while she has not been against the project, her focus has been on refining and promoting markets in Canada.

Trump's government has said he will look at renegotiating the terms of the deal, including using U.S. steel in construction.

Notley said she will keep a close eye on that.

"It comes down to what is meant by renegotiating those terms," said Notley.

"We need to look into that and monitor that very closely, and we will continue to do so on behalf of Alberta industry and Alberta interests."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Racist incident alleged on bus

RACISM

Man says he would have been 'very injured'



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

An Edmonton man is speaking out after he says a passenger on a city bus used racist language before attempting to physically attack him.

Bashir Mohamed said he was leaving the University of Alberta on the No. 9 bus around 6 p.m. Monday, while talking on the phone with a co-organizer of a Black History event, when, he said, a white, older man turned around and started swearing at him.

Mohammed said the man told him to "shut the f*** up" and that he "deserves to sit at the back of the bus," before telling him "nobody cares about this black s***."

Mohammed said a woman on the bus told the man to be quiet but he continued, and



Bashir Mohamed is speaking out after an alleged racist incident on a city bus. METRO FILE

Mohammed hung up the phone and told the man he was not going to get off the bus.

"At this point he gets extremely angry, turns around, starts swearing. And within a second he gets up and he rushes towards me," Mohamed

said. "Immediately at this moment, the guy on my right stands up and he goes between me and the other guy."

After the bystander intervened, Mohamed went to the front of the bus and asked the driver to let him off so

he could wait for the next bus near City Centre Mall.

Mohamed said he is thankful for the bystander, who he described as a short white man in his 20s.

"I was sitting in a corner, and if this guy was able to get to

me ... I know that I would have been very injured," he said.

Mohamed, who sparked local conversation last summer after he posted video of a verbal altercation with a motorist downtown, filed a report with ETS regarding Monday's incident but did not go to police.

He later posted about the incident on Facebook to share his experience and highlight racism in Edmonton.

Reakash Walters, an activist and community organizer in Edmonton, said racialized communities are experiencing an uptick in similar incidents recently.

"There are a lot of folks who are now feeling emboldened by people like (Donald) Trump and other people who have decided to raise their racist flags recently. And the rise of the alt-right on both sides of the border has made it more difficult, I would say, for people to just carry out their normal lives as human beings," she said.

"That being said, these are the type of things that have been happening for a very long time, far before there was any notion of Trump."

TOWN HALL

PM says he misspoke about oilsands

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says he misspoke earlier this month when he talked about phasing out the oilsands.

He says petrochemicals from the oilsands will always be valuable — even though the world is moving away from fossil fuels.

Trudeau angered many in Alberta when he told a town-hall meeting in Ontario that the oilsands need to be phased out.

Alberta Opposition Leader Brian Jean responded by saying that Trudeau would have to go through him and four million other Albertans first.

Trudeau says he understands that critics will always try to jump on his words, but points to his approval of pipeline projects needed to develop the oilsands.

The prime minister met with his cabinet in Calgary today and has a town-hall meeting planned in the city tonight.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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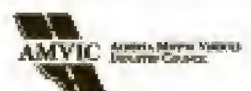
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This puppet named Alex is the new face of a **Friends of the Royal Alexandra Hospital** campaign. KEVIN TUONG/METRO

ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

Alex the puppet pushes for hospital fix

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

The Friends of the Royal Alexandra Hospital have rolled out a middle-aged puppet to rally the public.

The group is pushing for redevelopment at the Edmonton hospital, which has been on the provincial government's health-care infrastructure priority list for two decades.

"We think that engaging the public is going to be the important next step for the government to really feel that they have that community support for this project," said the group's president Andrew Otway.

"We thought the concept of using a puppet was kind of clever. And (Alex) is able to then have her own social media, to respond to questions, to create these video blogs."

The group worked with Ed-

"We thought the concept of using a puppet was kind of clever. Andrew Otway

monton's Odd-Lot Puppetry Co. to build the puppet, named Alex, and found a voice actor through local creative firm Berlin Communications.

She's a woman to reflect the

hospital's namesake, Princess Alexandra, and is middle-aged to mirror the age of the building, which was completed in 1962.

Alex has been spreading the message on a colourful new website.

"We're just thrilled with the actual mascot puppet that we have created," Otway said. "I think it's a little bit clever, it's a little bit cheeky, but I think it has a really important message."

No to tweaks in taxation

GOVERNMENT

City pushed to email notices to save time and money

Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

City staff are "disappointed" the province turned down 80 per cent of their requests to change the Modernized Municipal Government Act — tweaks they say would have saved taxpayers a lot of money.

The city's biggest priority was changing rules that would allow Edmonton to email assessment and taxation notices. It's a small thing with big potential savings, staff told council Tuesday.

Current provincial law says such notices must be printed and physically mailed, and the Alberta government turned down the city's request to change that.

That's a lot of money Edmonton could be saving on printing costs, according to Iveson.

He told reporters Tuesday that moving away from paper statements could save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars, and potentially millions of dollars over time.

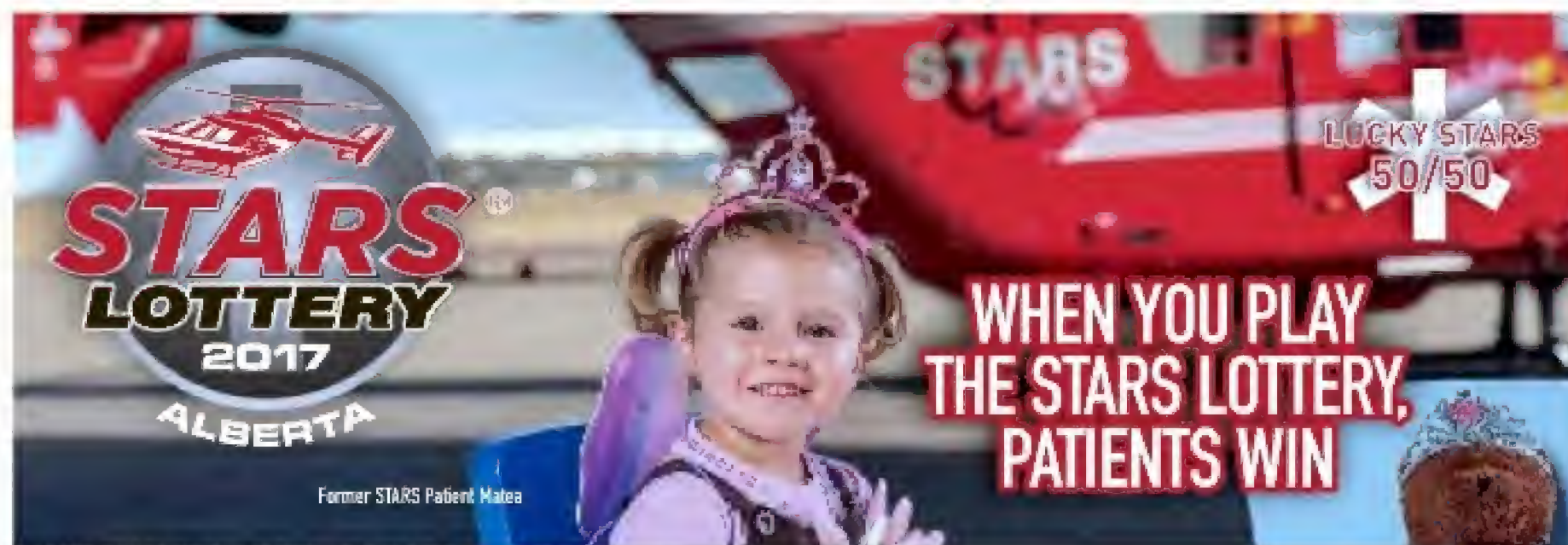
"Even though we didn't get all of the things that we asked for — and 80 per cent seems like a big number — a lot of those were very, very technical changes to some of the rules around assessment and taxation," Iveson said.

"We'll take one more push at them because they can save taxpayers and the City of Edmonton money without compromising the fairness and the integrity of the assessment and taxation process."

During council, city staff said the recommendations aren't contentious and would strengthen the current legislation.

The province is in the process of revamping the Municipal Government Act to, among other things, give cities new powers, something Mayor Don Iveson has long supported.

But the city's disappointment Tuesday comes at a time when officials have been actively trying to reduce tax increases.



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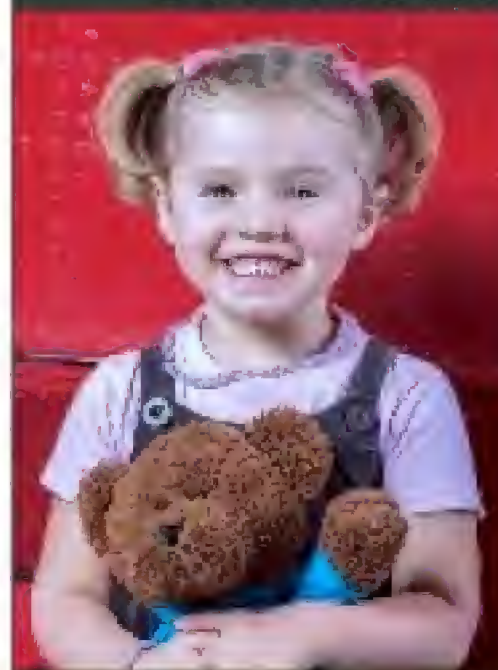
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Two weeks later, on Matea's last night in hospital, her mother Pam wrote a letter. In it, she counted her blessings and expressed her gratitude. She told her young baby how tremendously grateful she was to have one more day, week, month, year, or decade together.

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Council debates Epcor transfer

INFRASTRUCTURE

Accountability and selling of drainage assets under focus



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton city council isn't yet ready to say yes or no to the transfer of drainage assets to Epcor, amid looming questions about accountability.

In a close 7-6 vote, members of city council decided Tuesday to task administration with addressing transparency involving Epcor's potential drainage operations before making a final decision.

The decision came after 10 Edmontonians — representing unions and environmental groups, among others — voiced their concerns over the possible transfer of the city's drainage infrastructure, expertise and planning to the organization.

Council will come back on April 11 to debate the transfer, once it has answers from ad-



Bruce Fafard, president of the Edmonton and District Labour Council, says Edmontonians deserve access to information on how Epcor would handle city drainage. JEREMY SIMES/METRO

ministration on how to ensure Epcor's drainage operations are transparent to the public so that the right decisions are made.

Why the Epcor decision matters

Epcor — a city-owned, municipally-regulated public utility — proposed in June to take

over the city's drainage system, along with Edmonton's other water systems.

The city needs \$2.4 billion in new infrastructure to deal with flooding. That includes 40 kilometres of storm tunnels, 50 dry ponds — which pool rainwater and possibly pipe water to prevent street flooding — and other

storm-sewer improvements.

One solution to those infrastructure needs comes in the form of Epcor taking over.

A third-party assessment — known as the Grant Thornton report — says Epcor could get the job done faster and with less money. The corporation also promises to pay the city an

annual dividend of \$20 million.

Public wary of the transfer

But there's still much worry over a for-profit company taking over public assets that are worth more than \$1.1 billion. The city would also transfer \$600 million in debt.

For instance, CUPE president Mike Scott — who represents city drainage employees — called the drainage transfer a "ticking time bomb."

Scott is worried the transfer will lead to higher utility rates, as Epcor needs a revenue increase of 22 per cent following 2021.

"Rate payers can therefore expect a significant increase in year six (of the takeover)," Scott said.

Concerns over access to freedom of information

Bruce Fafard, president of the Edmonton and District Labour Council, raised concerns over access to freedom of information, arguing people will want to know how Epcor is handling operations as its decisions will affect the entire city.

"If the transfer goes ahead, Epcor's decisions need to be made in an open environment so cit-

+ RATES

Epcor clarified Tuesday that ratepayers would pay less if it's the one building major capital projects.

On the flip side, if capital investment slows down, a city-run utility would offer cheaper rates.

Lee said it works that way because Epcor doesn't have strict debt limits, like the city, so it can take on more capital projects without having to raise rates to offset costs.

However, James Beckett, the city's utility advisor, told council it would be difficult to calculate if Epcor is saving the city money.

izens can comment and access information," he said.

Epcor president and CEO Stuart Lee told reporters that there will likely be an "increased frequency of meetings" via the utilities committee. He gave no indication board meetings or a FOIP portal would be open to citizens.

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People take part in a women's march in Sandy Cove, N.S., on Saturday. GARY WILSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tiny march, makes a mark

ACTIVISM

Women's march in small town an internet sensation

When Gwen Wilson and Melissa Merritt decided at the last minute to organize their own women's march, they were prepared to be the only ones trudging down the sole road in their rural Nova Scotia village on a grey, drizzly Saturday.

The two women who live on the Digby Neck peninsula both wanted to participate in one of the marches to support women's rights, but would have had to travel almost three hours to get to the closest one in Halifax.

So less than 24 hours before millions of people took to the streets around the world, they issued a call to the 65 year-round residents in Sandy Cove and others in villages that dot the peninsula to join them for their own march, expecting they might be alone in their activism.

When they assembled at the meeting spot — a school in Sandy Cove that has 22 students — they were stunned to see about a dozen other women, two men and a few children ready to go.

"We were ecstatic and were

like, 'Oh my gosh, there's another truck coming in!'" Wilson exclaimed Tuesday. "It was just a wonderful, joyful feeling of, I don't know — it's almost indescribable the feeling that you have when people chose to participate with you and you don't even know some of them."

What's more, Wilson says they have been overwhelmed by the response to an eight-second video posted on their Facebook site that shows the 15 marchers laughing and ringing bells as they walk along an empty road that cuts through the fishing community. From a distance, the group can be seen marching down a steep hill and then up another to the fire hall, waving their banners as they slosh through puddles.

The video has become an Internet darling, garnering more than 150,000 views, 500 comments and almost 3,000 shares.

"Your march touched me more than any of the others I've seen. It's so often we feel we are too small to change anything. Sometimes the one lone voice is much louder than the millions. Thank you!" one woman wrote on the Facebook page.

Another said: "My boyfriend and I drove from NYC to DC to participate in the March. Now I wish I had come to Sandy Cove to march with you. Way to go!"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENVIRONMENT

Greenpeace argues Resolute lawsuit is 'brute force'

A \$300-million lawsuit filed by a multinational forest giant against Greenpeace under American racketeering laws enacted to deal with organized crime is simply an intimidation tactic that would set a dangerous precedent if successful, the environmental group argues in new court filings.

In calling on a court in Georgia to toss out the suit, Greenpeace says Resolute Forest Products is trying to silence critics of its logging practices in Can-

ada's boreal forests. The approach, Greenpeace says in its filings, puts all public-interest advocacy at risk.

"Allowing this threatens to open the floodgates for any plaintiff who disagrees with positions that any advocacy groups might take," the filing states. "The collective burden on advocacy groups and the courts and the injury to open, public debate, could be extreme."

In a years-long campaign

against Resolute, Greenpeace publicly accused the Montreal-based forestry giant of unsustainable logging in Canada that threatens endangered and other wildlife, contributes to climate change, and ignores indigenous peoples.

Resolute has strongly denied any wrongdoing and some northern Ontario communities, which stand to lose jobs and industry, have denounced Greenpeace's tactics.

In March 2013, Greenpeace

apologized for falsely accusing Resolute of logging on a critical caribou habitat in Quebec, but two months later, the company filed a \$7-million lawsuit against Greenpeace Canada in Ontario.

The suit, which remains before the courts, alleges the organization defamed the company by publishing false and misleading information, and that its activists had broken laws all over world.

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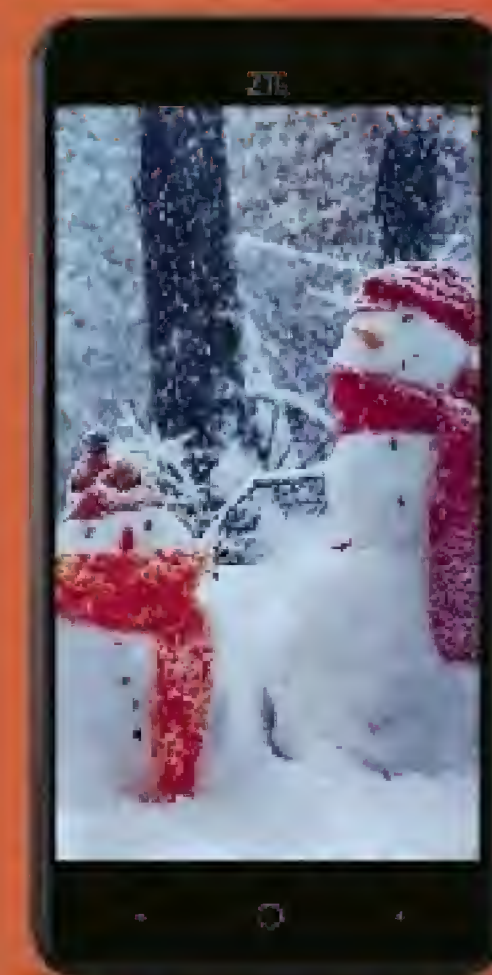
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Spicer perpetuates false claims

GOVERNMENT

Trump believes millions committed voter fraud

Promoting yet another lie, the chief spokesman for U.S. President Donald Trump said Trump believes millions of illegal immigrants voted illegally in the presidential election.

This did not happen.

There were fewer than a dozen claims of voter fraud across the country. In a December legal filing arguing against a recount in Michigan, Trump's own lawyers wrote, "All available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud."

Trump, though, is sensitive about the fact that Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton received more votes than him. He wrote on Twitter in November that he "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally," and he repeated the nonsensical claim in a private meeting with congressional leaders on Monday.

Asked Tuesday if Trump indeed believes what he is saying, press secretary Sean Spicer said yes — "based on studies and evidence that have been presented to him," though there is no evidence at all.

"I think the president has believed that for a while based on studies and information he has," Spicer said from a podium at the White House.

Trump has regularly promoted conspiracy theories and false claims to suit his political purposes.



White House press secretary Sean Spicer takes questions during the daily press briefing in the James Brady Press Briefing Room on Tuesday in Washington, DC. Spicer did not offer evidence to support Trump's claim that millions of people voted illegally. GETTY IMAGES

Spicer's briefing was his third appearance in the White House press room; at his first, on Saturday, he made five separate false claims about the size of the crowd at Trump's Friday inauguration.

This lie was far more dangerous, a deception that threatens to damage public faith in the integrity of the electoral system. And voting rights advocates have expressed concern that such deceit will be used to justify an attempt by incoming attorney general Jeff Sessions and Republican state legislators to make it more difficult for people, especially minority groups, to cast ballots.

South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said Trump was undermining both "faith in our democracy" and his own "ability to govern this country."

"It's not coming from a candidate for the office, it's coming from the man who holds the office. So I am begging the president, share with us the information you have about this or please stop saying it. As a matter of fact, I'd like you to do more than stop saying it: I'd like you to come forward and say, 'Having looked at it, I am confident the election was fair and accurate, and people who voted legally,'" Graham told reporters.

Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer told USA Today that he is concerned about Trump's penchant for subscribing to incorrect information.

"In general you cannot run a country unless you know the facts," he said. "If you're going to believe your own facts, whether it's about what Putin is doing in the world or what jobs or companies are doing here, you aren't going to be able to govern, so I worry about it."

In a dizzying contradiction, Spicer said Trump believes an election involving millions of supposed fraudulent votes was fair. He would not commit to an investigation into a supposed

fraud of historic proportions, saying Trump was "comfortable" with the outcome.

Spicer, tellingly, would not say if he personally believes what Trump is saying.

The Washington Post and other outlets reported that Trump claimed at this Monday meeting that he would have won the popular vote if not for three to five million illegal immigrants he falsely claimed came to the polls. Despite Trump's victory under the state-by-state Electoral College system that governs presidential elections, Clinton earned nearly three million more votes than he did.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ban on abortion funds expands

President Donald Trump has massively expanded the ban on providing federal money to international family planning groups that perform abortions or provide abortion information to all organizations receiving U.S. global health assistance.

Trump's spokesman Sean Spicer announced Monday that the ban on family planning funding had been reinstituted. But it wasn't until the president's memorandum was published Monday night that the expansion came to light.

The order directs the secretary of state, in co-operation with the secretary of health and human services, for the first time to extend the requirements in the ban "to global health assistance furnished by all departments or agencies." The ban is known as the Mexico City Policy or Global Gag Rule.

Suzanne Ehlers, president of Washington-based Population Action International which lobbies in the U.S. and developing countries for women's reproductive health, said that targeting health assistance expands the amount of U.S. funding affected by a magnitude of 15 times and will impact millions of women in low- and middle-income countries.

Any international organization receiving U.S. funds for health programs will now be required to certify that it does not provide abortion services, counselling, referrals or information or advocate for the liberalization of abortion laws, even with non-U.S. funds. If they don't, their funding will be cut off. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada emerges as tax haven

It's called 'snow washing,' which means using Canada's prudent reputation and solid economy to make suspect transactions seem legitimate.

Canada is quietly emerging as a popular tax haven for the global elite, who create shell companies with figurehead directors to evade or avoid taxes, a Toronto Star/CBC-Radio Canada investigation has found.

"Canada is a good place to create tax planning structures to minimize taxes like interest, dividends, capital gains, retirement income and rental income," reads a 2010 internal memo from Mossack Fonseca, the law firm behind the massive Panama Papers leak of 11.5 million documents detailing global tax avoidance and evasion.

It's called "snow washing" — using Canada's prudent reputation and solid economy to make suspect transactions seem legitimate. A sprawling international tax avoidance industry is increasingly touting Canada as a jurisdiction for hiding wealth.

And the Canadian government has made it easier than ever for criminals and tax cheats to move money in and out by signing tax agreements with 115 coun-

tries — the greatest number in the world.

Another key reason is that Canada's corporate registration systems are shrouded in the same kind of secrecy that exists in tax havens such as the British Virgin Islands, Panama and the Bahamas. Company owners who don't wish to be identified in Canadian corporate registries can pay a lawyer or a stand-in to appear on all public filings.

Mossack Fonseca actively marketed Canada as a tax haven and established shell companies here to evade taxes, according to the documents obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

And the discredited Panamanian firm is not alone. The Maple Leaf is emblazoned on dozens of international corporate registry websites pitching the country as a legitimate option for hiding wealth. Of greatest interest to foreign investors are Canadian limited partnerships (LPs): a corporate structure that has no tax filing requirements. Only the

partners behind an LP have to file taxes, and if they're not residents of Canada, no taxes are filed here at all.

"Canada is a horrible tax haven. Everybody is now switched over from using (British Virgin Islands) companies and Cayman companies to Canadian LPs. It's like the ultimate tax haven entity in the world," said Mark Morris, an independent tax consultant

based in Zurich who specializes in international tax agreements.

Tax industry insiders call Canada a "white-listed" tax destination — a kind of flag of convenience for foreign-controlled shell companies with no legitimate business operations in the country.

"You've got this entity in Canada: banks or other parties in other countries are going to pre-

sume that it's legitimate and OK — pure as the driven snow of the great white north," said Toronto tax lawyer Jonathan Garbutt.

While Canadian companies must pay taxes on their worldwide incomes to the Canada Revenue Agency, Ramses Owens, Mossack Fonseca's managing director in Panama, told colleagues there's an easy way around this.

"I believe the Canada compan-

ies ... are managed in a way that the administrators simply declare annually NO-ACTIVITY. In other words, they cheat a bit," he wrote in an email in August 2010.

"It is impossible for the Canada revenue governmental system to look into such information for every single company formed in Canada ... This is risky, but we will try to provide the service."

Shortly afterward, Mossack Fonseca produced a flyer promoting Canada as a tax haven jurisdiction, offering to register a corporation for \$2,000.

Mossack Fonseca did not respond to requests for comment.

"You cannot but help look at the issue of money laundering. Having a degree of anonymity allows individuals to obfuscate," said Peter Dent, a forensic accountant and past chair of Transparency International Canada.

"Rules that allow you to obfuscate the true source of money behind transactions facilitate money laundering on a global scale." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

“
It's like the ultimate
tax haven entity in
the world.”

Mark Morris, independent tax consultant

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'Captain Vancouver' in battle with DC Comics

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'Superhero' realtor faces lawsuit threat



Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

"This is Ian, Captain Vancouver." That's how Vancouver real estate agent Ian Brett introduced himself when Metro reached him for an interview Tuesday.

But it's not his Captain Vancouver persona, named after the city's founder, George Vancouver, that has raised eyebrows at DC Comics — it's his other claim, that he is a 'Real Estate Superhero,' that has the company's lawyers threatening to sue.

According to a letter published on Brett's website, DC Comics wants him to withdraw his trademark application for "Real Estate Superhero" and



Ian Brett, or Captain Vancouver, says DC Comics wants him to withdraw his trademark application for "Real Estate Superhero." CONTRIBUTED

to stop using a red and yellow shield symbol, reminiscent of Superman's 'S'.

"While our client does not ob-

ject to use of CAPTAIN VANCOUVER to promote your real estate business, use of SUPERMAN indicia and the SUPER HERO

trademarks is not permissible," stated a Jan. 9, 2017 letter from Bereskin & Parr, the Canadian intellectual property law firm

representing DC Comics.

Brett's website depicts the realtor in a blue 18th century British naval-officer outfit with a shirt underneath that features a six-point shield — but with a 'Re' for Realtor in it instead of an S.

But Brett, who has worked as a full-time realtor for four years, called DC Comics' request unfair, characterizing the fight as a David and Goliath situation.

Brett told Metro he is open to negotiating with DC Comics, particularly on the shield reference. But in the meantime, he is taking a tongue-in-cheek approach to negotiating with them, writing back to Bereskin & Parr as if the firm was Superman.

He signed off on the letter with this line: "Alas Superman, fear not, you will always be the 'Man of Steel' just as I will always be the 'Man of Sales'."

Bereskin & Parr did not respond to a request for comment by deadline.

ENVIRONMENT

Fracking fluids harm fish

Research has found that liquids released from fracked oil and gas wells can harm fish even at low concentrations.

University of Alberta biologist Greg Goss and his colleagues conducted a study using water that flowed from an actual fracked well.

"The real risk comes from the disposal process, where (companies) have to truck it to a new site or pipeline it to a new site," Goss said Tuesday. His paper notes Alberta has experienced more than 2,500 such spills between 2011 and 2014.

The researchers exposed rainbow trout to "sub-lethal" levels of such fluids. The levels were intended to simulate exposure fish or other organisms would be subject to from a pipeline leak or a spill near a water body.

Even at dilutions as low as 2.5 per cent fish showed significant impact on their livers and gills. Goss calls the effect "oxidative stress." That means chemicals in the water force liver and gill cells to age and die more quickly.

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HOUSING

Homebuyers widen search as prices rise, report says

High house prices in the Greater Toronto Area are spilling over into nearby markets, especially those within commuting distance, according to the latest report from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

Historically, prospective homebuyers in Ontario who have found themselves priced out of the Toronto area have migrated to Hamilton, Barrie and Guelph to buy single-family homes, according to CMHC.

But the federal housing agency says that most recently people have been moving even further out, especially to the St. Catharines-Niagara region.

As the price of low-rise homes in the Toronto area has soared, house prices in nearby communities like Hamilton, Barrie and Guelph have also been driven up, said Jean-Sebastien Michel, principal of the market analysis centre at CMHC.

According to CMHC, Hamilton — roughly 70 kilometres from Toronto — is the Ontario market that's most sensitive to housing prices within the Greater Toronto Area.

The report estimates that a one-per-cent change in GTA



Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. says people are moving to nearby markets to find single family homes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

house prices could increase or decrease Hamilton prices by two per cent after three years.

A similar but smaller multiplier effect would be felt in Guelph, Brantford, Kitchener, Barrie, Peterborough and St. Catharines, which is about 112 km from Toronto.

Tim Hudak, CEO of the Ontario Real Estate Association,

“
Allow developers to build more 'missing middle' housing types.

Tim Hudak

says the lack of supply is the main factor behind soaring detached home prices in the GTA.

"The best way to ensure young families and first-time buyers have a shot at buying a home is by putting more homes on the market," Hudak said in a statement.

"One way to increase housing stock is to allow developers to build more 'missing middle' housing types, like townhomes, duplexes and stacked townhomes."

"Increasing the housing stock is necessary to give buyers more options at affordable levels, in areas that make sense for them to be in."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JESSICA ALLEN ON THE POWER OF PROTEST



Public marches have meaning that lies in their symbolic power. Practical utility is not the point — though there are many examples of marches that did effect tangible change

Simon asked if I wanted him to join me at the Women's March in Toronto on Saturday. Because it was my first protest, and I wasn't sure why I felt compelled to attend, I told him that I'd like to go it alone. Besides, he could stay home to do the laundry and make dinner.

When the packed streetcar stopped in front of Queen's Park, everyone on board gasped at the sight of thousands gathered on the greens and the sound of their swelling cheers. We broke out into applause before joining them.

I overheard a father delicately explaining to his young daughter what "pussy" meant, a woman telling her group that a friend of hers in Ethiopia had travelled 90 hours to get to the Women's March on Washington, and I saw another proudly take her birth-control pill.

There were protesters carrying a black cardboard coffin with "Patriarchy" painted in white on its side. There were signs that read "I can't believe I still have to protest this sh-t" and semi-absurd ones, like "We Shall Overcomb." There were signs about feminism, racism, inclusivity and pipelines. I also saw a white woman holding an eagle feather, performing a smudging ceremony. For a moment, I understood why so many were dismissing the March as aimless.

But just as the crowd readied itself to move, I remembered something I'd read mid-

week: "There's been a strong hint of gendered schadenfreude in the coverage of the march's organizational problems," Jia Tolentino wrote for *newyorker.com*. "This has obscured the fact that activism is internally contentious by nature. Organization is always

er cannot say the same thing. I came for her, I told myself.

Afterwards, I floated home, where I found Simon hanging up my bras to dry. He started on dinner while I looked at social media, which was flooded with friends' celebratory images from protests in D.C.,

so much as discuss abortion with patients — every time someone tells us to give him the benefit of the doubt.

And then I saw a tweet from Stephen Taylor, the former national director of the National Citizens Coalition: "Do protestors in Toronto hope that Donald Trump will say, 'Oh, I guess Toronto is upset. I'll resign tomorrow.' What's the point?"

That, I confess, is precisely the rhetorical question that had kept me away from past protests and marches. What made this one different?

Symbolic acts matter. Take the parade that followed Trump's inauguration. Take birthday parties! We don't need to throw a party to get older, and the parade wasn't necessary to achieve the transition of power. They're both for show. Like public marches, they have meaning that lies in their symbolic power. Practical utility is not "the point," notwithstanding the many examples of marches throughout history, like the 1913 Women's Suffrage Procession and the 1963 March on Washington, that did effect tangible change.

The fact that the highest-ranking woman in Trump's administration, Kellyanne Conway, is the keynote speaker at this Friday's anti-abortion March for Life certainly means something. And you better believe that the same people who insist that the 600-odd demonstrations on Saturday didn't mean anything would be arguing the opposite if millions in the U.S. and hundreds of thousands across other countries hadn't shown up. That would've meant something.

But we did show up. And the world was watching.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's *The Social*.



Protesters at the Toronto women's march last Saturday show that they have a well-developed sense of symbolism.

JESSICA ALLEN/FOR METRO

tedious, and that's just fine ... Imagine any major protest in the twentieth century promoted via Facebook. There would have been no shortage of "infighting" enshrined on social media for everyone to see."

But why did I come? The Affordable Health Care Act repeal will greatly affect my U.S. friends and their families. The day after the election was the first time misogynist tweeters took dead aim at me, as though Trump's win was permission to say publicly that people who look like me shouldn't be on television. These things troubled me. As the throng began to inch forward, my throat swelled and my eyes cracked tears. I have two jobs. Both my bosses are women. I have a stay-at-home partner. I have never been sexually assaulted. But my moth-

Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Oaxaca and Florence. Most comments were supportive. Others asked: "How can you protest Trump before he's had a chance to govern? Give the man a chance!"

Answering such a question is a tedious exercise, but still worthwhile: Trump has vowed to appoint Supreme Court justices that will overturn *Roe v. Wade*, has bragged about committing sexual assault, and wants to defund Planned Parenthood.

If you are tired of hearing this litany of complaint levelled against the commander in chief, imagine how it must feel for women who have to go through the dirty-laundry list — to which we can now add yesterday's reinstatement of the executive order banning foreign aid to NGOs that

Trump benefitting from waning U.S. influence



Thomas Walkom

Donald Trump can be thin-skinned and obnoxious. He plays fast and loose with the facts. He has adopted much of the worst of the Republican agenda, including opposition to women's reproductive rights.

No wonder so many people — including so many Canadians — detest the new U.S. president.

But he is also oddly realistic. His America First rhetoric may conjure up memories of 1930s isolationism. It may signal a retreat to Fortress America.

But it also reflects what is going on. America no longer dominates the Western world in the way it once did.

The signs are everywhere. In the Middle East, it is not the U.S. that is brokering an end to the devastating Syrian civil war. Rather that role has been taken on by Russia, Iran and Turkey.

In the Korean peninsula, it has become clear that any solution to the problem of a nuclear-armed North lies not in Washington but Beijing.

Even America's former colony, the Philippines, is pivoting away from the U.S. and toward China.

Economic integration? Trump officially killed the Trans Pacific Partnership this week. But he was merely delivering the coup de grace. Opposition to the deal was so strong in the U.S. that even Democratic Party presidential contender Hillary Clinton, a former fan, vowed to kill it.

Meanwhile, China is forging ahead to create its own economic zone. Its Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank,

which the U.S. has refused to join, now has 57 members — including Britain, Germany and France. Canada is applying to sign on.

Trump has questioned NATO's relevance, at one point calling it "obsolete." He's also called it "very important to me."

How the president squares these remarks is not entirely clear. But he is not the first to question the need for a military alliance set up to counter a Soviet Union that no longer exists.

Those who see Vladimir Putin's Russia as a modern-day version of the U.S.S.R. argue that NATO remains desperately relevant. But Trump doesn't appear to share those views. Indeed, he appears to think that Russia should be granted the same leeway in its backyard that the U.S., via the Monroe Doctrine, claims for itself in the Americas.

More to the point, he is reluctant to foot so much of the bill for an alliance that may no longer suit U.S. requirements.

And that is the key to what may eventually be called the Trump Doctrine: America's position in the world has changed.

The crisis of 2008-09 demonstrated that America alone is no longer able to solve global economic problems. The election of Trump showed that American workers are no longer willing to assume that what suits U.S. business will suit them.

The rise and decline of great powers is rarely neat. My guess is that America Firster Trump will intervene far more in the world than his critics think.

Still, these days, international leadership is not something the U.S. can so easily afford.

'What's the point?'
That, I confess, is precisely the rhetorical question that had kept me away from past protests and marches.

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Lin-Manuel Miranda is getting closer to 'EGOT' status, thanks to his Oscar nomination for best original song. The Hamilton creator, who has already won an Emmy, two Grammys and three Tonys, picked up a nod for How Far I'll Go from the animated film Moana.



Oscars not so white

After a badly needed push in the right direction, the Academy Awards recognize that there's nothing as diverse as talent

OSCARS LOWDOWN

3

Viola Davis is now the first African-American actress to score three Academy Award nominations.

\$100M

None of the best picture nominees has yet grossed more than \$100 million in the U.S. The film Arrival comes closest with \$95.7 million.



Among the Canadians earning Oscar nods is Theodore Ushev for best animated short, and a number of the Arrival crew including producer Shawn Levy and director Denis Villeneuve.

Viola Davis is up for best supporting actress for her role in Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation, Fences. She was previously nominated for Doubt in 2009 and The Help in 2012. CONTRIBUTED

Peter Howell
Torstar News Service

There were few surprises and even fewer snubs among Tuesday's diverse nominees for the 89th Academy Awards, which is exactly as it should have been.

There's not a single undeserved nomination amongst the lot of them, even if academy voters rightly felt pressure to address the dearth of non-white actors in two previous years of nominations.

Sometimes a little push is needed to get people to do the right thing.

As predicted by pundits and earlier wins, Damien Chazelle's

Hollywood ode La La Land topped the golden list with 14 nominations, including best picture, director, actor (Ryan Gosling) and actress (Emma Stone), tying Titanic (1997) and All About Eve (1950) for the Oscar noms record.

The singing-and-dancing sensation also breaks the record for most nominated musical, set a half-century ago by Mary Poppins, which had 13 nods.

Tied as the closest challengers to La La Land, with eight nominations apiece including Best Picture and Director, are Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age drama Moonlight and Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi thriller Arrival.

The other six Best Picture nominees — Manchester by the

Sea, Fences, Lion, Hidden Figures, Hacksaw Ridge and Hell or High Water — make for a total of nine, one more than last year and all of them dramas.

Most significant of all is the large amount of diversity in the nominations, even if leader La La Land has a mostly white cast and features Gosling as a defender of jazz, a musical form created by African-Americans and Indigenous North Americans.

Seven of the 20 acting nominees are people of colour, while four of the nine Best Picture contenders — Moonlight, Fences, Lion and Hidden Figures — tell diverse stories with non-white actors in most of the leading roles.

After two years when visible

minorities were conspicuously absent from the Oscar leaders board, this is a welcome development, if also a completely expected one.

The nominations seemed to please April Reign, the New York writer and editor who coined the #OscarsSoWhite Twitter hashtag that helped push a foot-dragging academy into making needed changes to promote diversity, including increasing the number of non-white voters.

"Some surprises, some spot-on decisions... Things are changing because our voices are strongest together," Reign wrote in a pair of tweets.

It was particularly gratifying to see Oscar nominations for

Moonlight's Barry Jenkins, and also Mahershala Ali and Naomie Harris in the respective best supporting actor and actress categories, three of the reasons why this wonderfully wise film topped my list of best movies of 2016.

It's also great to see Meryl Streep get her record 20th Oscar nomination for playing a tone-deaf singer in Florence Foster Jenkins.

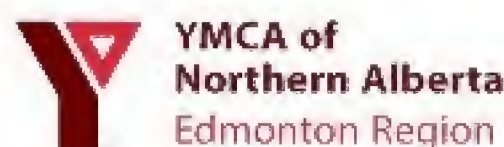
It's a nomination she likely gained not only for her considerable talent but also in appreciation of her marvellous rip into Donald Trump's xenophobic ways at the Golden Globes earlier this month, who retaliated by childishly calling her "one of the most overrated actresses in

Hollywood."

Also nice are the long-overdue best actress nod for Isabelle Huppert (Elle) and best actor nom for Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic), indicating that the academy is willing to recognize overlooked actors of any colour.

What few snubs there were — the acting MIA list include Tom Hanks for Sully, Amy Adams for Arrival, Annette Bening for 20th Century Women — are fewer in number than in previous years and not unexpected in a year so rich with talent.

Oscar can't get everything right. But at least this year, it got the most important thing right, by recognizing that talent doesn't just come in one colour.



"I lost 145 pounds and I'm off my diabetes medication. The YMCA has given me back my life."

Jamie, now a YMCA personal trainer and fitness instructor



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*Offer expires February 28, 2017. Some conditions apply. Amenities vary by location.



My friends have definitely helped guide me and assist me through things, my family helped me keep the lights on during certain years, and my wife knows how much she's contributed to my well-being, so I'm happy.

Mahershala Ali, best actor nominee for Moonlight



I called my mother and she was at work in the care home, and she just started screaming and crying and everyone was looking through the glass wondering why she's making a big scene.

Dev Patel, the third actor of Indian descent to be nominated for an Oscar, for Lion



I'm very grateful to the Academy. It was a true collaboration, so to see everyone else's wonderful work on the film acknowledged so generously makes it even more special.

Ontario's Ryan Gosling, who earned his second best actor nod for La La Land

Salute the kernel and add more pop



If there are any leftovers, these popcorn bowls will keep for days afterward. RICARDO LARRIVÉE

RECIPES

Take movie nights to the next level with stellar snacks

Ricardo Larrivée
For Torstar News Service

Fluff up your pillows, slip on your sweats, cue up a favourite flick and take movie night to the next level with these three popcorn recipes. Your kids will never look at the old-school snack the same way again.

Plus, they can easily help make these three fun flavours — all you'll need to do is supervise. We suggest making them all — spicy barbecue, tangy ketchup and caramelized brown sugar — so that everyone can mix and match.

Best of all, if there's any left (unlikely), it'll keep for days in an airtight container so you can do it all over again next weekend.

Sweet popcorn Makes four cups.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups (1 L) plain popcorn
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) salted butter
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) lightly packed brown sugar

Directions:

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and brown sugar, stirring frequently. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for 5 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheet to dry.

5. Popcorn will keep for 1 week in an airtight container or sealable bag.

BBQ popcorn Makes four cups.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups (1 L) plain popcorn
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) salted butter
- 1 tsp (5 mL) chili powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) paprika
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) garlic salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 mL) cayenne pepper, or to taste

Directions:

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan, melt butter with chili powder, paprika, garlic salt and cayenne pepper. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well.

Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for 5 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheet to dry.

5. Popcorn will keep for about 2 weeks in an airtight container or sealable bag.

Ketchup popcorn Makes four cups.

Ingredients:

- 8 cups (2 L) plain popcorn
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) salted butter
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) ketchup
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) paprika
- 1 tsp (5 mL) onion salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) garlic salt

Directions:

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

2. Place popcorn in a large bowl and set aside.

3. In a small saucepan, melt butter with ketchup, salt, paprika, onion salt and garlic salt. Drizzle hot mixture over popcorn. With a spatula, toss to coat well. Spread on prepared baking sheet.

4. Bake for about 10 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking, or until popcorn is dry to the touch.

5. Popcorn will keep for about 2 weeks in an airtight container or sealable bag.

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**ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER****THIS WEEK:** Before you pop that waffle in the toaster, check the numbers

A lighter version of the popular Belgian waffle makes for a better breakfast!

PICK THIS**PC Maple Belgian Waffles (1 waffle)**

Calories 220
Fat 9g
Saturated Fat 2g
Sugar 8g

**SKIP THIS****Oakrun Farm Bakery Authentic Belgian Waffles (1 waffle)**

Calories 320
Fat 17g
Saturated Fat 9g
Sugar 17g

**HERE'S WHY****Equivalent in sugar to 5 Oreo cookies.**

The Belgian waffle is the decadent sibling of the waffle, with its fluffy and light texture, larger squares and deeper pockets for all the luscious toppings you can use. The Oakrun Authentic Waffle adds sugar to the outside, increasing both the calories and sugar content considerably. There's also close to double the fat and four times the saturated fat, coming from the palm and coconut oil. If craving an indulgent breakfast, swap for the PC Belgian Waffles and skip the syrup and whip cream for fruit and Greek yogurt as your toppings.

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL**Even Burns would sip on a can of pure liquid poetry**

Sharp, the mastermind behind Innis & Gunn Original (500ml, \$2.95-\$3.99) and its many oak-aged offspring. At a pub below Edinburgh Castle he told me about the origin of his famous Scottish brew.

Commissioned to create flavoured barrels for William Grant in which to age their whisky, Sharp was surprised to discover the resulting oak-infused beer was a hit with workers assigned to pour it down the drain.

A malty mix of toffee, vanilla and citrus, it's pours like liquid poetry which Robert Burns would have appreciated.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.



While he may not inspire the same celebratory enthusiasm as Saint Patrick, Scots across the country will most certainly be raising a glass of something Scottish to Robert Burns today.

No doubt a bit of whisky will be in order for many with ties to Scotland (even if it's just having seen Braveheart). Though I love myself a nice dram, the quarter of me that's Scottish prefers a beer on a weekday.

A few years ago I spent some time with Dougal Gunn

DIPPIN' DEAL**Breaking ice with Spicer**

Sean Spicer's ice cream headache may be coming to an end after long seven years. The Internet shared a collective laugh when online publication the A.V. Club dug through the new White House press secretary's Twitter account and found many complaints against ice cream maker Dippin' Dots.

Now, the "ice cream of the future" has shot back — with an olive branch.

"We understand that ice cream is a serious matter," states Dippin' Dots' open letter to Spicer. "We've seen your tweets and would like to be friends."

The letter offered: "We can...afford to treat the White House and press corps to an ice cream social. What do you say? We'll make sure there's plenty of all your favorite flavors." COLIN MCNEIL/METRO

**Dippin' Dots** HANDOUT**ATCO INTERNATIONAL ICE CARVING COMPETITION**

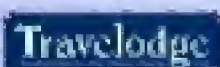
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**JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING****Fighting same issues, one decade at a time**

THE SHOW: *One Day at a Time*, Season 1, Episode 2 (Netflix)
THE MOMENT: The raise

Single mother Penelope Alvarez (Justina Machado), a nurse in the office of Dr. Berkowitz (Stephen Tobolowsky), is sick of being mansplained to and marginalized by male nurse Scott. Then she learns Scott earns \$5 an hour more than she, and quits. Now Berkowitz is at her door.

"Come back to work," Berkowitz pleads. "I can't run the office without you."

"Five bucks more an hour," Penelope says. "That guy."

"It wasn't right," Berkowitz says. "But in my defense, he did ask for more than you did."

"I don't know if it's a woman thing or what, but I didn't even think about negotiating," Penelope admits. "I was newly separated. I needed a job. You said, 'Do you want one?' I said, 'Yes.'"

"And Scott made me feel that I was lucky to have him," Berkowitz says. "I even gave him my parking spot."

**Rita Moreno embraces Justina Machado in the new Netflix incarnation of *One Day at a Time*.** CONTRIBUTED

The first iteration of this series, 1975 to 1984, was co-created by Norman Lear, king of social-issues television. It showcased the struggles of a single mom trying to be a breadwinner and a second-wave feminist. Her situation felt perilous: How do you stand up for your principles if they threaten your paycheck?

This new version feels less life-and-death — Penelope's estranged husband sends money, her mother (Rita Moreno) lives with her — and the feminism

is more second-vs.-third-wave: While Penelope fights for equal pay, her daughter dissects micro-aggressions, racism (they're Cuban-American), environmentalism.

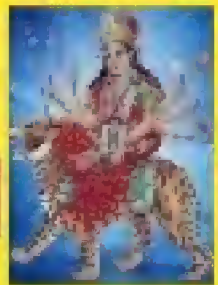
It kills me that we're still parsing this stuff in 2017, but here we are. Call it *One Decade at a Time*.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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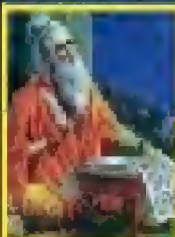
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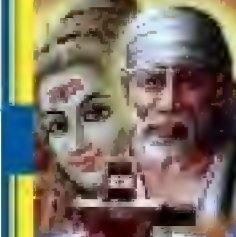
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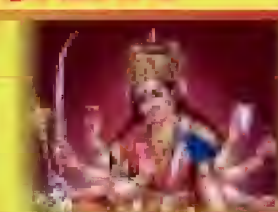
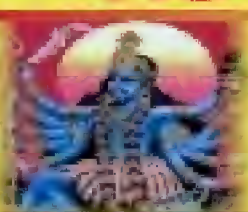
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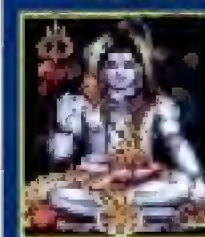
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RX 350 shines on the highway



REVIEW

Quiet, comfy, and it handles great in a snowstorm

Lucas Cooney
AutoGuide.com

I took a 2017 Lexus RX 350 to take me and a cameraman up north for a story for sister site ATV.com.

While a more performance-oriented Lexus might have been a better match for the sporty side-by-side ATV, an unexpected snowstorm during our four-hour drive made me thankful for the burlier 2017 Lexus RX 350.

Like many people, I'm a torn on the outward appearance of the RX. While I do like the general shape and form of the vehicle, it's in need of a nose job. The giant grille up front was the first thing my wife noticed, and it wasn't because she loved it. It certainly stands out, just not in a good way.

The test car was equipped with gorgeous 20-inch alloy wheels, which come as part of the F-Sport Series 3 package. The wheels help make the RX a nice looking vehicle, so long as you only see it in profile.

Step inside the RX and there are few complaints with the beautiful interior. Highlights include F-Sport seats wrapped in leather that offer both heating and cooling, a heated and leather-wrapped steering wheel, aluminum sport pedals, and a

panoramic glass roof. The optional 15-speaker Mark Levinson audio system is the cherry on top of the sundae.

It's on the highway where this vehicle really shines. Even at highway speeds, the RX offers a luxuriously quiet and comfortable ride as the 295-horsepower V6 smoothly eats up kilometre after kilometre of snowy road.

Due to the storm, the wind was occasionally violent and the RX would sway a little but it never felt out of control.

When the lanes were largely clear of snow, the lane keep assist feature did a remarkably good job of keeping the vehicle between the lines. This feature was far more active during the windy drive up north than in the calmer conditions on the return trip.

The RX was not quite as at home in the city. That uber-comfortable suspension on the highway seems to come at the cost of a slightly sloppy feeling while taking tighter turns on city streets or braking even slightly aggressively.

Because I'm cheap, I spent most of my time driving the RX in Eco mode. That worked just fine on the highway, but in the city, it turned the engine into a dullard with a painfully slow response.

Going against my skinflint instincts, I briefly took advantage of the F-Sport Series 3 package's Sport S+ Mode and the personality changed dramatically. An RX will never be truly sporty, but the Sport S+ Mode really livens things up and makes the RX, dare I say it, sort of fun when taking off from a dead stop.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 LEXUS RX 350

THE BASICS

Engine: 3.5L V6
Power: 295 hp, 267 lb-ft
Transmission: Eight-speed auto
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 12.2 city, 8.9 hwy
Price: Starts at \$55,900



LOVE IT

- Ultra quiet interior
- Comfortable ride
- Loaded with cool features

LEAVE IT

- Fugly nose
- A bit dull (except in Sport S+ Mode)
- Terrible infotainment interface

INNOVATION

Volvo to share its autonomous car data with other companies



Sami Haj-Assaad
AutoGuide.com

Volvo has been at the forefront of self-driving cars, and the Swedish company isn't being selfish with its expertise.

The automaker has a pilot project for autonomous cars called Drive Me, where a family could lease a self-driving XC90 that records various data about their driving habits and how they interact with the car.

During an interview at the 2017 Detroit Auto Show with

Marcus Rothoff, Volvo's Autonomous Driving Program Director, he explained that having data on how humans interact with real self-driving vehicles is vital to the program's success.

He said Volvo plans on sharing that information with other automakers to expedite research in autonomous cars.

"Collaboration is important when it comes to safety," Rothoff said. Volvo has a special place in the automotive safety history books because it shared one of the most important safety innovations in vehicles: the

three-point safety belt.

"We welcome the chance to work with other automakers to improve the safety and development of self-driving vehicles."

Rothoff imagines a future where the vehicle-to-cloud infrastructure that is used by Volvo is adopted by other automakers. Volvo hopes to have fully autonomous vehicles by 2021.

The Volvo XC90 that is being leased as part of the Drive Me program will be capable of automatically driving on the highway.

It uses a variety of sensors and a front bumper mounted LIDAR, in addition to a cloud-connected service that will allow the vehicle to send data to other Volvos.

That means that whenever the ABS and stability control is activated, like in slippery driving situations, other Volvos will be warned about the potentially dangerous route. Additionally, as the car drives autonomously on the highway, it will alert the driver of the upcoming off ramp, and the deactivation of the self-driving mode will begin five minutes

in advance, issuing plenty of notice for when the driver has to take control.

The Swedish automaker is partnered with Uber for a self-driving collaboration, as they provide XC90s to the ride-sharing service. Uber, however, uses its own software and collects its own data.

This isn't the first time automakers are sharing research and data in order to benefit the greater good.

Tesla and Toyota have both opened up their own patents on electric and hybrid cars for other automakers to use.



We welcome the chance to work with other automakers to improve the safety and development of self-driving vehicles

Marcus Rothoff



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SL model shown*

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These Phantoms are covered in gold

MANUFACTURING

Wagoneer, Wrangler pick-up in the works

Jeep has announced a total \$1-billion U.S. investment in plants in Michigan and Ohio, adding 2,000 new American jobs. Jeep is also confirming the addition of new models to its lineup including a Jeep pickup truck, Jeep Wagoneer, and Grand Wagoneer. The Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer models will be produced in Michigan.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



PORSCHE

911 GTS models get turbo power

Porsche is launching five new 911 GTS models, including rear- and four-wheel drive versions of the Carrera and Carrera Cabriolet, bringing the 911 lineup to a staggering 25 variants. Joining the Carrera GTS models is a new Targa 4 GTS, rounding out a 911 lineup that now includes more than two dozen variations of Porsche's quintessential sports car.

DAN ILIKA/AUTOGUIDE.COM



WHEELS ROUNDUP

News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com



ROLLS ROYCE

The most expensive Phantoms ever

The 13 Hotel in Macau will feature a fleet of 30 Rolls-Royce Phantoms, two of which are extra special. Those two vehicles will serve as flagships and have been infused with 24-karat gold on both the exterior and the interior, making them the most expensive Rolls-Royce Phantoms ever built at the time of commissioning. All 30 vehicles were commissioned by Stephen Hung, joint chairman of The 13 Holdings Limited, reflecting his bold vision that can also be seen in the design scheme of the hotel. During the painting of the two special cars, the British automaker installed new and specialist equipment at the Surface Finish Centre at the Rolls-Royce Global Centre of Excellence in Goodwood. This was to ensure no contamination would occur during the painting process. To make them look exquisite, the finish uses 250 per cent more paint than other Phantoms, resulting in 10 layers with one featuring a 40-micron deep layer of gold, combined with glass and aluminum for an alluring shimmer. Not surprisingly, the iconic Spirit of Ecstasy emblem at the front of the vehicle is also 24-karat gold plated, further complementing the gold-colored Pantheon Grille and Rolls-Royce badge. Making it even more excessive are 336 brilliant-cut diamonds that surround the signature RR emblem.

+ IN BRIEF

Control your Genesis from a watch

A Genesis smartwatch app is now available for the Apple Watch and Android Wear. The new app allows Genesis owners to control their vehicles straight from a smartwatch and is called the Genesis Intelligent Assistant App. Functions on the app include remote start with climate control, remote engine stop, remote door lock/unlock, remote horn and/or lights, car finder, vehicle status and parking meter. Like most smartwatch apps, all the commands can be controlled with your voice.

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2018 Mustang gets big updates

NEW RELEASES

Goodbye V6, hello 10-speed automatic transmission



Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

Speculation was running rampant among the small group milling around the otherwise empty Ford display on the second preview day of the Detroit Auto Show.

A mysterious invite had us gathered early that morning before the show had even opened for the short trek from downtown Detroit to the automaker's product development center in nearby Dearborn, Mich., for an "embargoed product news backgrounder." With a description about as vague as the clutch pedal in the Subaru Crosstrek, our ever-inquisitive minds couldn't help but wander.

It didn't take long after we arrived, and agreed to leave our



While the new Mustang offers some serious tweaks, consumers will have to wait until 2020 for an outright redesign. HANDOUT

cameras and cellphones at the door or risk being tackled by William Clay Ford Jr. himself, that the cat — or, perhaps more appropriately, pony — was out of the bag: The 2018 Ford Mustang will soon be here, bringing with it some serious changes.

While it's not the all-new Mustang that some of you have been hoping for — for that you'll have to wait until 2020 — the car does receive some significant styling tweaks both inside and out.

Starting outside, it's clear the design team's directive was to

fine-tune what has largely been a well-received retro look.

No one piece of the Mustang's aesthetic puzzle has been radically revamped for 2018, with a handful of incremental changes made instead.

A new front fascia has a slight-

+ INTERIOR

The cabin features a largely unchanged appearance outside of some new materials and finishes.

The biggest difference inside comes by way of the available digital display that replaces the car's gauge cluster. Much like Audi's Virtual Cockpit, the 12.3-inch screen can be configured and reconfigured to prioritize performance-related info.

under the hood involves the Mustang's V6, or lack thereof, with Ford finally giving the aging Cyclone engine the axe. Currently the entry-level engine offered in both coupe and convertible versions of the pony car, the 3.7-litre V6 was rendered obsolete by the increasingly popular turbocharged four-cylinder that was added to the sixth-gen car.

In its stead remain the 2.3-litre EcoBoost and the tried-and-true 5.0-litre V8 that's become as synonymous with the Mustang as its galloping-horse emblem.

The former, which makes 310 horsepower and 320 lb-ft of torque in the current Mustang running 93-octane or better, will see its torque count and full-throttle performance increased for 2018, according to Ford. Don't, however, expect anything in the neighborhood of the outrageous Ford Focus RS, which uses the same turbocharged engine to make 350 horsepower and 350 lb-ft of torque.

Also making major — though largely expected — news is the inclusion of a 10-speed automatic transmission on the 2018 Ford Mustang's option sheet.

ly more modern look, while the nose has been raked a little steeper, leading to a hood-line that has been lowered for a sleeker profile.

Around back, the 2018 Ford Mustang gets a new set of tail lights and trunk applique that complement a revised rear bumper replete with available quad exhaust tips.

When it comes to performance, a lot has been done in terms of upgrades. The big news

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Oilers' other must-see star

NHL Oilers' German star studied the game religiously as a junior

Leon Draisaitl couldn't get enough of the National Hockey League when he first came to North America.

A German teenager living in the small city of Prince Albert, Sask., and playing for the local Western Hockey League team, Draisaitl said he consumed more hockey than his billet Carole Ring had ever seen — and she'd been hosting players for decades.

"I'm sure some nights she wanted to watch something else, but that wasn't OK with me," Draisaitl said with a laugh.

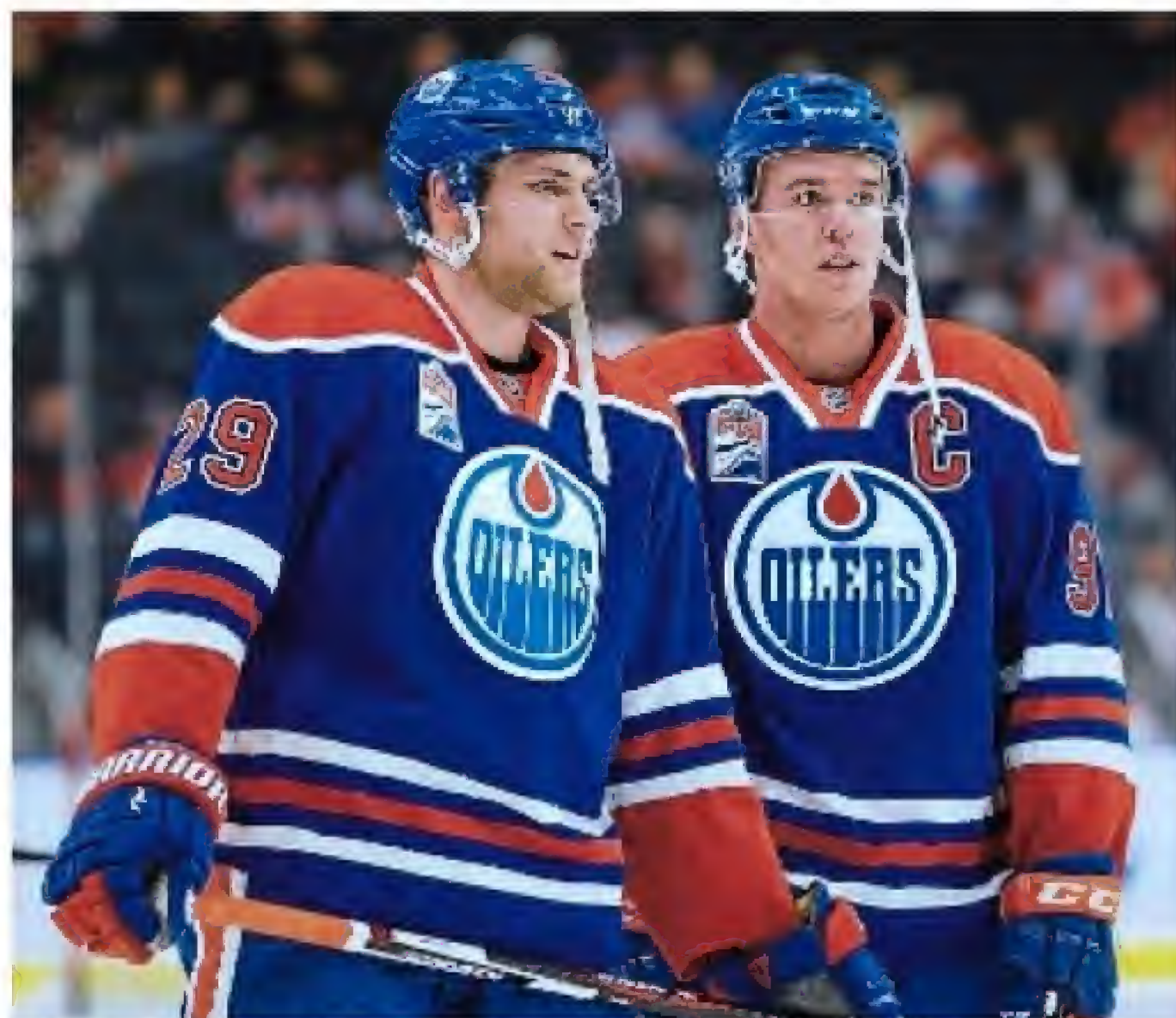
Though sometimes lost in the shadow of Connor McDavid, Draisaitl is already a starring attraction himself for the Edmonton Oilers.

The 21-year-old is right there among the league's top-20 scorers this season with 17 goals and 42 points in 49 games. He'll soon eclipse the impressive 19 goals and 51 points he managed in his rookie campaign.

Germany has produced less than 20 full-time NHL players, but hockey has always been in Draisaitl's bones.

His father, Peter, was a long-time centre and coach who helped Leon develop an intuition for the game.

"He just always seems to find the right words for me, whether it was giving a tap on the back or giving me a tip," said the young-



Young Oilers Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid are thriving on a line together in Edmonton. CODIE MCLACHLAN/GETTY IMAGES

er Draisaitl, who still talks to his dad after every game. "But also my parents in general, my sister too, the hours they spent in ice-cold German crappy rinks.

"I'd be nowhere near where I am without them right now."

The family — which includes his mom Sandra and sister Kim — visited Edmonton during the Oilers' recent six-game home-

stand. Draisaitl is a geek for the NHL, studying players closely — particularly former Red Wings great Pavel Datsyuk and Kings captain Anze Kopitar — in the years before he made the league. He'll still flip on a game any time he's at home, a tradition that dates back to those days as a Raider in Prince Albert, or "PA" as he calls it.

Draisaitl just didn't have that

kind of access to the NHL in Germany and couldn't help but take advantage.

"Obviously with the time difference back home you would have to get up at two, three in the morning (to watch)," he said.

"Which doesn't mean I didn't do that either. I did that as well. But it was just easier, you could watch pretty much any game you want, any player you want.

“I'd be nowhere near where I am without them right now.
Leon Draisaitl on his family

Also, I just enjoy watching hockey." The Raiders used the second overall pick at the 2012 CHL import draft on Draisaitl, but then-general manager Bruno Campese wasn't actually sure he'd get the big centre who could make plays "through the roof" over to North America.

The Draisaitls weren't too keen on coming to PA. Peter Draisaitl wasn't sure if it was the right place for his son.

So Campese, now a scout for the Las Vegas Golden Knights, went to Cologne and over two and a half days laid out why Prince Albert offered the best possible stepping stone to the NHL and first-round draft status and eventually won them all over.

Draisaitl, with 102 points in 158 games, stands an excellent chance of passing Marco Sturm's 487 career points and becoming the highest-scoring German NHLer ever.

Dubbed the "German Gretzky" before he made it to the NHL, Draisaitl actually took a year off from hockey as a kid to pursue soccer, Germany's most popular sport. It didn't last.

"Hockey was just my thing I guess," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bill Belichick. GETTY IMAGES

SUPER BOWL Belichick figuring out Falcons

Bill Belichick is on to the Atlanta Falcons. After taking a day to review and recharge following his team's AFC championship game win over Pittsburgh, the New England coach said Tuesday that the coaching staff's preparations are fully underway for the Super Bowl.

The Patriots are preparing to make their seventh Super Bowl appearance during the Belichick era, making them veterans at handling the various logistics involved with the big game. Belichick said it's helped them turn the page "about as quickly as we could."

"We're on to Atlanta now as a coaching staff. We're deep in the middle of them," he said.

The Patriots do have some familiarity with Falcons coach Dan Quinn, who was defensive co-ordinator of the Seattle Seahawks when the teams met in the Super Bowl two years ago.

"They have some of their own characteristics and of course the players are different, so that makes it different," Belichick said. "But schematically there is quite a bit of carryover."

One of the key differences, he said, is that the Falcons seem to bring a little more pressure than Seattle ran. Belichick also sees similarities in the schemes, which rely on players of similar skillsets such as Seattle's Kam Chancellor and Atlanta's Keanu Neal.

"Go right down the line — they're similar," Belichick said.

The Patriots defence will again have to contend with a dynamic receiver. Julio Jones had nine receptions for 180 yards and two scores in Atlanta's NFC championship game win over Green Bay, but will be challenged by a New England secondary that has given up just two passing touchdowns in the playoffs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2018 PARALYMPICS GAMES

Nicholson named chef for South Korea

Former sledge hockey captain Todd Nicholson will be Canada's chef de mission at the 2018 Paralympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The native of Dunrobin, Ont., played for Canada from 1989 to 2010, winning gold, silver and bronze during that span.

The chef de mission acts as the face and spokesman of the team during the Games. Canada won 16 medals at the 2014 Games in Sochi, including seven gold, two silver and seven bronze.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Todd Nicholson THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Olympic diver Filion retires

Three-time Canadian Olympian Roseline Filion has retired after two decades of competitive diving.

Filion teamed with Meaghan Benfeito to earn back-to-back Olympic bronze medals in the 10-metre synchro.

"It's with great emotions that after 20 years of being a competitive athlete, I decided to retire," the native of Laval, Que., posted on Twitter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Roethlisberger is eyeing retirement

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger isn't sure he'll be back in 2017.

Roethlisberger said during his weekly radio appearance on Tuesday that he is going to take some time to evaluate whether he wants to keep playing. The two-time Super Bowl winner will turn 35 in March and has missed time in each of the last two seasons with knee issues. Roethlisberger is under contract through 2020.

Coach Mike Tomlin says



Ben Roethlisberger GETTY IMAGES

of Roethlisberger's, retired last February at age 33.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hadwin hopes big day sets 2017 trend

PGA TOUR

B.C. linksman riding high after Canadian record 59 score

A routine putt had Adam Hadwin rattled.

All that stood between the Canadian golfer and a third-round score of 59 at the PGA Tour's CareerBuilder Challenge on Saturday was a three-foot putt on the 18th hole. A shot that he's

66

I was extremely nervous, I was shaking.

Adam Hadwin on hitting his putt to secure a 59.

made time and time again over his golf career suddenly seemed daunting with history on the line.

"It's amazing that it came down to that one putt basically. I was extremely nervous, I was shaking," Hadwin said Monday. "The first thought that entered my mind was, 'don't miss,' and the second thought was that I had done it thousands of times and I just needed to do it once more, and finish off the good round."

Hadwin made the shot, becoming just the eighth golfer, and first Canadian, to shoot a round below 60 on the PGA Tour.

Hadwin's previous lowest round in competition was 62 at a Mackenzie Tour-PGA Tour Canada event early in his pro career. He admitted he was thinking about history and doing the math in his head on Saturday.

"You don't get into that rhythm or mindset very often,"



Adam Hadwin

JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

he said. "It didn't seem to matter what I did. If I was putting from eight, 10, 16, or 20 feet, I made everything."

Hadwin ended up second at the CareerBuilder Challenge, earning just over \$626,000 US.

He nailed a lengthy birdie putt on the 17th hole Sunday to come into the final hole of the tournament just one shot back of the lead. But couldn't convert a birdie

on the 18th as Hudson Swafford captured his first PGA Tour title.

Hadwin knocked in a tricky shot for par to secure second place.

This was the second year in a row Hadwin was in the final group at the CareerBuilder Challenge. He said he feels comfortable playing golf in the desert and is familiar with the courses in La Quinta, Calif.

He also said the Canadian fan support was special.

"There was a lot of support, and I think it helped. It made me feel pretty good about what I was doing, and it definitely adds to my confidence," he said.

Hadwin has been on the PGA Tour since 2015 after he won twice on the Web.com Tour circuit and earned full status thanks to his position on the money list. His previous best finish on the PGA Tour was a tie for fourth at the 2011 RBC Canadian Open at Shaugh-

nessy Golf and Country Club in Vancouver, about an hour away from where he grew up in Abbotsford, B.C.

He said his result Sunday is going to be good for his confidence this season.

"The first couple of days I felt like I was playing pretty well. But to make everything on Saturday and have one of those days, it got me back into the tournament and I created a little history in the round as well," he said. "I was happy to be in this position early in the year. It sets me up for future events, shows I can compete, hang in there, and have a chance to win golf tournaments."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



NBA RAPTORS DROPPED FOURTH IN A ROW Kyle Lowry put up 30 points, five rebounds and two assists, but the Raptors weren't able to overcome the absence of the injured DeMar DeRozan and lost their fourth straight, 108-106 to the San Antonio Spurs. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Source: Celtics strike deal to adorn jerseys with ads

A league official familiar with the deal says the Boston Celtics have reached an agreement with General Electric to put the company's logo on the team's uniform.

The NBA's will allow ads measuring 2.5 inches by 2.5 inches on jerseys next season. The Celtics will be the third team to announce a deal, joining the Philadelphia 76ers and Sacramento Kings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

Ivory Coast's reign ends vs. Morocco

Ivory Coast didn't even make it past the group stage in its defence of the African Cup of Nations as it crashed out without winning a game on Tuesday.

Ivory Coast needed to beat Morocco in the last round of matches in Group C to make the quarter-finals but lost 1-0 to follow Algeria out of the African championship in Gabon — two big teams gone in the space of 24 hours.

Instead, Congo topped the

TUESDAY In Oyem, Gabon



group with a colorful 3-1 win over Togo in Port-Gentil, where the Congolese players danced in front of their fans for every one of their goals, and again at fulltime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Jays agree to contract with Saltalamacchia signs

A person with knowledge of the negotiations says the Toronto Blue Jays have agreed to a minor league contract with free agent catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia.

The agreement is reportedly subject to a physical and Toronto had not

made an announcement.

Saltalamacchia would get a \$1.25 million, one-year contract if added to the major league roster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argos fire GM Barker

The Toronto Argonauts fired general manager Jim Barker on Tuesday after the team

finished at the bottom of the CFL standings last season.

The Argos were tied with Saskatchewan for last in the league at 5-13. Barker spent six seasons as GM, winning a Grey Cup in 2012. The team says Scott Milanovich, who was hired by Barker, will remain as the Argos head coach. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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In Memoriam

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Age 65 years

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Lucic-Baroni back in semis

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

After 18 years she is 'in shock' as she advances to the last four

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni is back in the semifinals of a Grand Slam after a nearly 18-year wait, beating fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to advance to the last four at the Australian Open.

The 79th-ranked Croatian collapsed to her knees after serving it out and broke into tears in a post-match interview on Rod Laver Arena.

"I can't believe this. This is crazy," Lucic-Baroni said. "I can't believe I'm in the semifinals again. I feel a little bit in shock right now."

Lucic-Baroni swept to the semifinals of Wimbledon in 1999 at the age of 17, but she was never able to build on



Mirjana Lucic-Baroni

GETTY IMAGES

that early success.

Within years, she was out of the sport completely and wouldn't play another Grand Slam match until 2010.

"One day I will say a long, big story about the things that happened to me," the 34-year-old Lucic-Baroni said after the match, her voice cracking. "I

“

I never could dream about being here again.

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni

never could dream about being here again."

The pair combined for 14 service breaks in an up-and-down match before Lucic-Baroni, whose left leg was heavily taped, left the court midway through the third set for a medical timeout.

When she returned, she won eight straight points to hold and get the final break of the match and then put a rosary around her neck to serve the match out.

Lucic-Baroni next faces either Serena Williams or Johanna Konta, who played later Wednesday in the last women's quarterfinal.

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PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

• 4 filets of cod

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

2. In a large skillet, warm olive oil over medium heat. Toss in garlic, onions and fennel and sauté about five minutes until vegetables begin to soften. Add peppers and herbs and cook another three minutes.

3. Add tomatoes and olives. Use the back of a wooden spoon to break up tomatoes. Allow to simmer and thicken for about 10 minutes.

4. Pour the sauce into a baking dish. Lay the cod over the sauce and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until fish is flaky. Sprinkle finely chopped fennel fronds over top.

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This restaurant-worthy dinner may come off all elegant but it couldn't be simpler to make on a weeknight.

Ready in 40 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

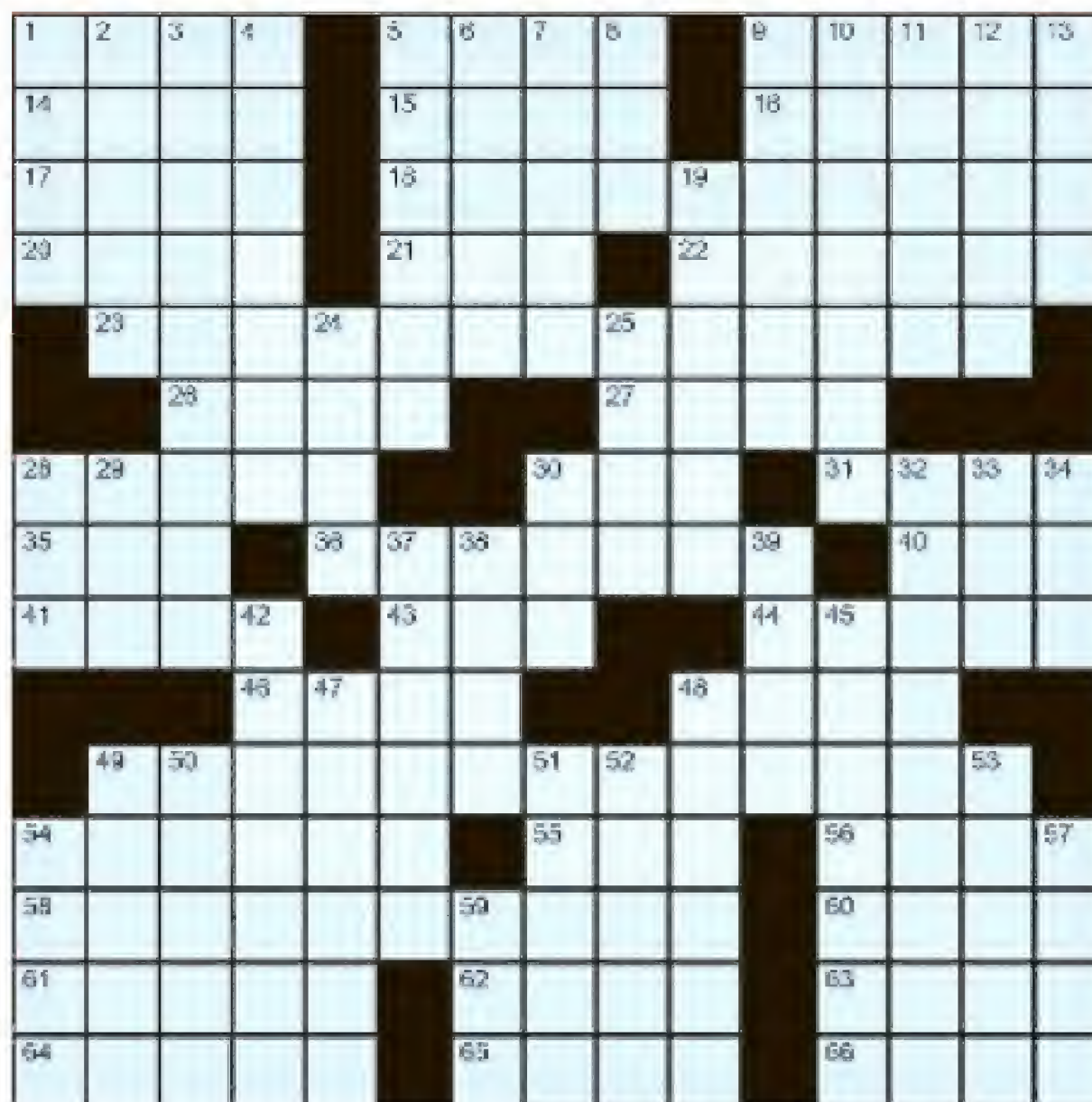
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 bulb of fennel, trimmed and thinly sliced (retain the fennel fronds for garnish)
- 1 red pepper, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1 x 28 oz. can of tomatoes
- 1/3 cup black olives, pitted

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Butterfingers
5. Worker's two-days-from-Wed. holler!
9. Grammy, for one
14. Conspiracy
15. Forearm bone
16. Battle royal
17. Country of West Africa
18. 2017: It's on display more than ever during Canada 150
20. Fair
21. Dutch city
22. Pope's emissary
23. Song on The Tragically Hip's 'Road Apples' album alluding to the legendary afterlife: 2 wds.
26. Early helicopter
27. Not as much
28. ___ Barbera (Cartoon-creating team)
30. Rihanna's "___" (Rescue Me!)
31. Maple trees' drinks
35. Camel hair garment
36. Sorts of seals
40. Gladiator's 3
41. Narrate
43. Jay Z's wife, to pals
44. Job seeker's interviewer
46. Comic Mr. Sandler
48. Brewery kiln
49. The Tragically Hip tune with an office setting video: 4 wds.
54. Fun piece of jewellery
55. "Geel", to



- a Scot
56. Ms. Del Rey
58. Not difficult to enter, as a building
60. Winnipeg's Portage and Ottawa's Carling, e.g.
61. Mother-of-pearl
62. Untruthful
63. Shipbuild-

- ing wood
64. Murders bugs this way
65. Academic terms, for short
66. Antiquities

DOWN

1. Goes for
2. Distant in de-

- meanor
3. Warning for mariners: 2 wds.
4. Acted as a replacement for somebody: 2 wds.
5. Mississippi city where Elvis Presley was born
6. Air freshen-

- er brand
7. Prefix with 'continental'
8. Way out
9. Secret love affairs
10. Non-dry quality
11. "The Brady Bunch" housekeeper
12. Pine tree stuff

13. Garage band's CD
19. Consume
24. Pull along
25. Plum-like fruit
28. Fedora, for one
29. Bart Simpson's grandfather
30. Hue of blue
32. It sometimes results in jet lag: 2 wds.
33. Apple ___
34. Gentleman's title
37. Puts down
38. Quasi
39. Canadian telecommunications firm
42. Miranda of country lures
45. Sequester
47. Edible seaweeds
48. Nicole Kidman movie, "The ___" (2001)
49. Particular parrot
50. Lcky-sounding plant
51. Canadian actress Ms. Smulders
52. Happy as ___ (Glad)
53. Work the dough
54. Ray-___ (Sunglasses)
57. Is inquisitive
59. They, in Ta-doussac

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your relationships with bosses and authority figures today will be easygoing. They will be willing to listen to you, and you will be willing to listen to them. Of course, this doesn't mean you will agree.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Because your appreciation of beauty is heightened today, give yourself a chance to enjoy beautiful places and things. Visit art galleries, museums, beautiful buildings and parks.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you have to share something with someone today, be careful to protect your own best interests. It's good to be generous — but don't be a doormat.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Because the Moon today is opposite your sign, you must go more than halfway when dealing with others. This simply requires some tolerance and patience.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do something today that will help you feel better organized. Set aside 15 minutes, and use this time to tidy up things and get on top of your game.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a creative day for you. If you work in the arts, you will be productive. Trust your imagination and your artistic skills. You also feel sensitive to the needs of children.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day for family discussions because everyone will feel mutually sympathetic. If you cannot help someone, you can at least listen with genuine understanding.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might spend a lot of time daydreaming today. Your imagination also is heightened, which is why flights of fantasy might take up some time.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If shopping today, you might be tempted to spend too much money on something luxurious and extravagant. Think about this carefully. Save your receipts.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel more emotional than usual today. Knowing this, be careful not to overreact if you're unhappy about something. Be cool.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it feels better. You're not prepared to stick your neck out, which probably is wise.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it feels better. You're not prepared to stick your neck out, which probably is wise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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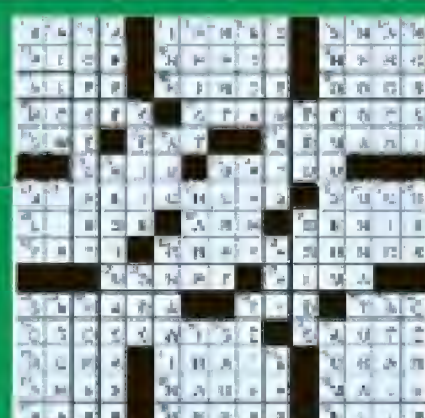
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Clara Hughes